REMARKS

The Examiner's action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been rewritten and claims 6, 7 and 9 have been canceled. Claim 10 has been amended to account for the cancellation of claim 9. For the reasons which follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all grounds of rejection over prior art.

Claims 1, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rabne et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,332), the Examiner stating that Rabne teaches each and every element recited in the rejected claims. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth hereinafter.

The present invention provides a conditional access component that includes several software items, each referred to as a conditional access system and each being directed to a particular access system. The primary feature of the present invention is to store several conditional access systems in a single conditional access component, whereby the user, upon acquiring a license for a particular provider's content, can selectively enable that provider's conditional access system in the conditional access component. In this manner only a single device is required for an end-user to consume services from several conditional access systems as contrasted, for example, with prior practice wherein each provider's conditional access system was linked to its own hardware. To date, an important problem encountered with the provision of such a single access component is that a license fee is required at the time that each conditional access system is acquired and installed. Thus, for an end-user to install multiple conditional access systems in order to have the flexibility to consume services from any one of several providers, it would have to pay the license fee "up-front" for each system and before it knew whether or not it would ever elect to selectively enable that system. In accordance with the present invention, several conditional access systems are installed in the conditional access component, but are disabled, and do not become activated until the end-user elects to activate any particular system by paying the necessary license fee and acquiring the required license.

Rejected claim 1 recites that the plurality of particular conditional access systems are loaded onto the conditional access component at the same time that the generic system is loaded onto the component and the particular conditional access systems are initially

disabled, the component is provided to an end-user, the particular conditional access system to be used is identified, a license is acquired for the identified conditional access system, the license is loaded into the component and the identified conditional access system is enabled after successful verification of the license. Rejected claim 8 recites a conditional access component having a first software module embedding a basic functionality common to a plurality of different conditional access systems, a plurality of specific application software of which each constitutes a particular conditional access system in conjunction with the basic functionally, a non-volatile memory for storing the plurality of specific application software, the particular conditional access systems being initially disabled in the non-volatile memory, means for acquiring a license for the particular conditional access system, and means for selectively enabling the particular conditional access system subject to a successful verification of the corresponding license.

The elements of claims 1 and 8 are not disclosed by Rabne et al. Specifically Rabne et al fails to disclose a preloaded conditional access component that contains **initially** all variations of the future functionalities, wherein the preloaded systems are disabled until a purchase action, such as acquiring a license, is performed and wherein means are provided for selectively enabling at least one of the preloaded systems subject to successful verification of the license. Rather, Rabne et al disclose a software module that is loaded when the initial software is not able to fulfill the particular requirement, i.e., in case that the software component is not stored in the launch pad, a download is performed to load the appropriate component. Rabne et al does not disclose preloading software access systems in a conditional access component, which systems are disabled when installed, and which may be selectively enabled by the end user by acquiring a license, which is verified by the system. Accordingly, Rabne et al not only does not disclose essential elements of the rejected claims, but also it is directed to a different concept. Accordingly, the rejection of remaining claims 1 and 8 as anticipated by Rabne should be reconsidered and withdrawn.
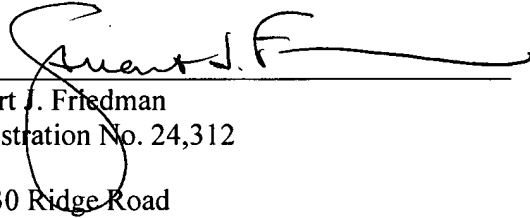
Claims 2-7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabne et al in view of Kamperman et al. However, the disclosure of Kamperman does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Rabne et al. Specifically, Kamperman et al does not disclose preloading software access systems in a conditional access component, which systems are disabled when installed, and which may be selectively enabled by the end user by acquiring a license, which is verified by the system. Accordingly, no combination of

Rabne et al and Kamperman et al can be seen to render unpatentable this inventive aspect of the present invention. Accordingly, remaining claims 2-5 and 10 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims 1 and 8.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all of the prior art grounds for rejection is respectfully urged and an early Notice of Allowance directed to remaining claims 1-5, 8 and 10 is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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